



***City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, January 25, 2022 at 7:01 O'clock P.M.***

REVISED

Regular Meeting

Mayor Shaunna L. O'Connell presiding

Prayer was offered by the Mayor

***Present at roll call were: Councilors Dooner, Duarte, Borges, McCaul,
Pottier, Couté, Sanders, Quintal and Postell***

Record of preceding meeting was read by title and approved. So voted.

Opportunity for input by the general public. There was nobody present to speak at public input.

Motion was made to go out of the regular order of business to Communications from City Officers, item #4. So voted.

Com. from the City Solicitor, Matthew Costa regarding the proposed Fourth Amendment to the Host Community Agreement between the City of Taunton & Tree Market Taunton, LLC. It's to extend the time for the Company to commence operations to February 25, 2023. **Motion was made to allow the parties into the enclosure. So voted.** Manager Joseph Villatico from DMA Holdings (MA), LLC spoke about the delay with opening in Quarter 1, 2022. They ran into a few issues converting the building for the proposed use that they have been able to work through. They recently completed the interior demo related to the project and they are in the process of finalizing the building permit submittal and getting ready for construction. They believe they are past the delays which have been somewhat significant and believe to open in August of 2022. They will be missing their original target by three or four months. Councilor Couté asked him how his other project in Lynn is going and if it has been started. Mr. Villatico said that project is a little larger. In that process, they are taking down the building and that process is underway as well. Councilor Couté explained that he is leery about giving another year extension only because he feels everyone is putting Taunton on the button burner and most people who have other licenses already have activity in other cities. He feels Taunton is often second or third and he really wants to see something happen on the site. He feels it doesn't take 10-months to get a status on a building. Councilor Duarte asked Mr. Villatico to elaborate on what issues he ran into. Mr. Villatico responded to Councilor Couté's comments and stated Taunton is their number one priority for getting the business open. As far as seeing things done, from the outside you can't but interior demo has been completed. Lynn is a much longer process. It's a full teardown and rebuild. As far as his company, Taunton is their priority. Mr. Villatico then responded to

Councilor Duarte's comments explaining, to his understanding, there were quite a few code issues that needed to be addressed. He believes at some point it was a residential dwelling and when it went to commercial use, it wasn't fully converted with all the code upgrades. This has now been resolved and is underway. Councilor Duarte asked if he had an estimated time for when they would receive the building permit. Mr. Villatico responded saying he doesn't know off the top of his head but they have the projected timeline for the completion of construction which is 90 to 120 days. He added they also have been working with the building department, so their anticipation on when they will submit, will meet their expectations. Councilor Postell asked if he just heard him say they did not yet receive the building permit. Mr. Villatico responded stating correct. Councilor Pottier added he hasn't submitted either. Mr. Villatico stated correct, just the demo permit. Councilor Postell asked how many extensions has he been given already. Mr. Villatico responded by explaining the first three were for litigation and this would be the first one, post litigation that they have requested. Councilor Postell asked if any of these delays were related to Covid. Mr. Villatico replied saying he believes it only relates to the supply chain issues and going forward, they have already accounted this for in his letter. Up until this point they haven't had a significant Covid delay related to building. Councilor Postell added he wants things to be fair. They were given their license in March of last year, and asked for more substance as to what has been the delay. Mr. Villatico explained they got the approval in March. It took a couple of months for the city to work through issuing the license, at which point when the license was issued, it immediately required to be renewed. They came back before the Council for the renewal. It took several months for the City to work through that process. They have had ongoing communications with the city and the licensing process. From the company's perspective of it, at the end of last year they brought on investors and they brought on a local cultivation partner here in Massachusetts. They have been working very hard to do all the things needed for when this store opens, it's going to be successful. All of this was happening when they were going through the license processing and while working on the building. There is a lot that goes into this, it's not just delays from the city or delays from us not wanting to move forward. There was a lot happening. He added that all this has been resolved. Councilor McCaul asked the City Solicitor instead of extending for a full year, can they possibly do six months. The City Solicitor stated yes. **Councilor McCaul made a motion to extend the Host Community Agreement between the City of Taunton & Tree Market Taunton, LLC for six-months. So voted.** Councilor Pottier referenced the letter that was issued to the council in the agenda packets which mentioned to be operational by July/August of 2022 which is only six-months away. The challenge from the councils stand point is every day they don't have a marijuana facility open, they just have lost revenue and opportunity for the city. Communities around them all have these facilities already open. The driving marketing sharing is going to be tough for the ones they have opening up to really steal the share. He asked for them to really be able to see something by August or else he may be hard pressed into further extending in the future. Mr. Villatico responded explaining he believes this is very reasonable. Discussion continued.

Motion was made to revert back to the regular order of business. So voted.

Hearings:

On the petition submitted by Joe Meawad, 10 Serenade Park, N. Easton, MA 02356, to allow: A Special Permit for a 22-Unit Multi-Family residential use located at 215 High

Street, Taunton in an Urban Residential District. **Motion was made to open the hearing and invite the parties in to the enclosure. So voted.** Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board submitting a positive recommendation. Com. from Conservation Agent submitting a no issue comment. Com. from Assistant Executive Director, Board of Health submitting a mandatory comment. Com. from City Engineer submitting suggested related review of the plan comments. Com. from Distribution Manager, TMLP submitting no comments. Com. from DPW Water Superintendent submitting requirement comments. Com. from Sanitary Sewer Collections System Supervisor, Veolia Water submitting no objection comment. Map of the property was also submitted. **Motion was made to make all communication a part of the record. So voted.** Frank Gallagher from Gallagher Engineering in Foxborough, MA introduced himself and with him was the owner and proponent of this development Joe Meawad. Mr. Gallagher went on to present his proposed plan. He said it's a condominium development on High Street, on the Southside of High Street. It's between Bryant and Cushman Street. It's a 1.75 acre parcel. At the moment there is not a dwelling on the property. To his understanding, there was at one point in time but from what he has been told, the house that was there, that was 215 High Street was burnt down. What is there now is shown on the plan he presented. They have three structures. A garage in the center of the property. There is large carriage house that is tucked into the corner behind house 209. Then there is just a small gazebo on the property as well. It's all completely upland property. There is no wetland on the lot. It's fairly gently sloping. The front portion of it does flow toward High Street. The rear portion flows off in the direction to the south. It's in the urban residential zone. The property is served by city water and sewer. It's conforming and far exceeds the area and the frontage requirements for that zone. It's mostly open land. The lawn which is beginning to overgrow a bit because it isn't being maintained but there is a very few trees on the property as it exists. What they are proposing is a 22-unit condominium development. He explained the proposed condominium layout. It's single access, off of High Street, then you enter onto the property. You would have a pavement travel way with a series of parking spots. That travel way essentially would loop through the project and then back out onto High Street. Traffic would circulate right through. The building units would be combined either by duplexes or triplexes. They are proposing to be townhouse style condominiums. There is city water would extend on to the sight and loops around and then back to a second connection to an existing water main that's on High Street. With having that loop, with two separate connections, it would give them better water quality as it keeps moving through the sight. Each unit would have its own separate service that comes in and sewer is essentially somewhat the same. It would loop through each unit and have its own separate sewer connection. They have storm water handled in a couple of different ways. There would be an infiltration basin. So, the storm water that flows from the paved areas in the developed part of the sight, would flow into the infiltration basin. Then, it would be basically recharged into the ground. The storm water that would flow from the roofs of the houses, would be collected at the down spouts and would be piped into a central infiltration area. So, the roofs would be essentially handled separately from the other part of the development but in both cases, it would be infiltrated back into the ground. As far as the development itself, they are proposing townhouse style condominiums. They would be purchased and owned individually. They would not be for rent. They are to be sold outright and owned. They would setup a homeowners association that would handle whatever is required as part of the development such as snowplowing, landscaping and those types of things. They have an extensive landscaping feature proposed. They are also proposing a green space in the

middle of the parking/travel way and this said to be a common area. They also have a central mailbox that is proposed in that area as well. They haven't fully defined what would take place in this common area but they expect that it would be a picnic or BBQ area, maybe a child's playground, a swing set type thing. Even a dog park. It's a good sized area and centrally located which would be a good gathering point for the residents that would live there. As far as how they jive with the zoning in this area, its urban residential, so multi-family development is a permitted use by special permit, which is why they are presenting this in front of the council. They are seeking a special permit. For a property this size, if they just take the zoning regulations and maximize this sight and still fall within the regulation, they would be allowed to put a maximum of 32-units on the sight. They have 22-units proposed. There's also a building coverage requirement within the zoning regulations which is 40%. So on this 1.75 acre site, zoning would permit 40% of that site to be covered by buildings. They have 19% of the site covered. They are at only 50% of what the zoning would allow. They also have just an overall coverage between buildings and pavement that's specified in the zoning to not exceed over 75% of the overall parcel. They are only at 57%. They fall well below the thresholds that are laid out within the zoning regulation. Which would tell you, that Joe isn't really looking to maximize it and squeeze everything he can out of it, but to build a development that's pleasing to the eye, functional and appealing. They presented a picture of what they anticipate, what 1 of the 3 building would look like. He believes this is a very livable and comfortable unit that is very much livable for families. Mayor O'Connell asked if they know what the cost of the condos are going to be, how much they will be selling them for. Mr. Gallagher replied after having real-estate people look at this plan, they anticipate between \$325,000.00 to \$335,000.00, somewhere in that range. Councilor Coute believes this would bring some much needed housing to the City of Taunton. Some of the things they talked about at the pre-review and some of the things the City Council cares a lot about, is neighbor outreach. He asked if they have done any neighbor outreaching on this project. Mr. Gallagher replied saying they have not had any organized meetings with any of the neighbors. Councilor Coute asked if they did any outreaching because at the pre-review they specifically said that's something they put a lot of weight in, which is neighbor outreach, have they done any of that. Mr. Gallagher said they have not had public meetings to bring people up to date on this. He had spoken to one person on this who he happened to know, who is adjacent to this parcel, and explained it to them. They were very much in favor of it. Councilor Coute feels they are a little light in the sales prices. He also said the City Engineer gave them a check list of items and asked if they had any communication with the City Engineer to address his concerns in his letter. Mr. Gallagher said no they haven't. He read through it and looked at his plans and he looked at his comments, and he can tell them that it's all doable. It's nothing they can't accomplish. They have been holding off on making a revision to the plan set just because he knows they are going to go back for a site plan review and he expects to deal with those issues then. Councilor Borges feels like this is a great project. She asked about the parking in regards to the 44-spaces. She knows they only are required to have two per unit, but what were the additional spaces they had. Would those be deeded spaces or free for all parking. Mr. Gallagher explained what he thinks they will do, is have assigned parking spaces. Each unit would be assigned two spaces. The way the parking lays out, they are required to have 44-spaces. The zoning requirement is two per unit. They have 53-parking spaces. The way they laid it out, they have pretty much two spaces in front of each unit. It would be easy to assign two spaces to each particular unit. They would be right in front of the unit. The extra parking spaces would really be

designated for visitor parking. Essentially overflow parking. The 44-spaces go right along the development and split-up quit well. Councilor Borges asked if there is any more room on that site to add additional parking without reducing the number of units they are proposing. Mr. Gallagher explained that the only way that there could be more, would be if they take the green space and take some of that for parking. Councilor Borges asked what would prevent people from parking around the green space for safety purposes. Mr. Gallagher replied the only thing that they could do would be signage. They can't really put a barrier up because they would then be taking away that 24-foot backup space. The 24, permits two-way traffic as well. Councilor Postell discussed the overall congestion. He asked if the backside, were you would come around the common area, is that the same amount of distance of 24-foot. Mr. Gallagher said yes it is the same. Councilor Postell discussed his concerns with the safety such as fire trucks and etc. He also discussed his concerns with parking becoming an issue. Councilor Postell asked if its owner occupied, will Mr. Meawad still own the property. Mr. Gallagher replied by saying the homeowners association will own the property. Councilor Postell also discussed about it being family orientated, he feels the green space is a nice amenity to have and would hate to see it go away but out of the sake of public safety, being able to accommodate the maneuvering of an apparatus of emergency vehicles in a situation that could happen, he would like it to be paramount. He does have concerns with the overall parking piece of it. He thinks it's a very close and tight spot. Councilor Pottier mentioned he thinks the parking is going to be a challenge but that's a marketing standpoint, not necessarily the councils concern. If you only have two spots, husband and wife or domestic couple, possibly with an older teenager who is going to want to drive, they're going to have some challenges. By the ordinance, it is two spots per unit which they are fulfilling that. He asked if it's going to be market pricing. They said yes. He also feels the number is a little low. He asked if they are going to have city trash. Mr. Gallagher said they are proposing a dumpster on-site. At the same time, they would be owned, and taxed, so the city is going to get tax revenue, so they don't know if there is a policy against putting trash out for each unit and being collected by the city or not. In any case, they have shown a dumpster on-site. Councilor Pottier stated that anything 5-units and above, has to be commercial trash pickup. Councilor Sanders is disappointed that the council did ask them two weeks ago to do some neighbor outreach, which did not get done. He explained, that's the whole point of a pre-review, so that they can let them know what their questions and thought were so they could follow-up on them. Mr. Meawad explained there was a bit of confusion with him and Mr. Gallagher. The first time they went to the city to apply, they mailed all the neighbors so that if they had any questions or concerns, they could come to the meeting and nobody showed up. Mr. Meawad was under the impression that notifying the abutters was the chance for them to go to the meeting and discuss any issues. He misunderstood. Mr. Meawad wanted to mention they are trying to add value to the neighborhood and they are not trying to be cheap. He wants to make their neighbors happy and not disappointed. Councilor McCaul asked to be educated more about the homeowner's association and how it works and is setup. Mr. Gallagher replied explaining he is an engineer, not a lawyer, but he has been doing this awhile. Too his own experience, how that works, at closing, there's a deed and also a homeowners association. The people are made fully aware of that at the time they purchase the unit. Also, there is a condominium fee that is over and above what you are paying for your mortgage. That fee is established to cover the items that would be in the homeowners association. The homeowners association, which in this case, is going to cover the open space. It's going to be spelled out in the homeowners association that they are going to be responsible for maintaining

the open space. There will be an overall fee, but a portion of that fee will be figured to maintain the open space. Probably here, there will be a landscape contractor who will go in and take care of the grounds and maintain the planting and all of that. There will be snowplowing, trash removal and all of those items would be budgeted and split 22 ways, and that would be your condominium association fee. Nobody can sell unless they pay the condo fee. There will be some kind of rule listed to protect the other owners paying their portion. That fee can also be an escrow. Essentially it could be tacked onto your monthly mortgage. Councilor McCaul asked if they would be responsible for setting that up before they sell the house the first time around. They responded yes. Councilor McCaul asked if every one of these homes, as a part of the deed, will have a legal document. They replied yes, a lawyer would do that. Councilor McCaul explained that a lot of times in the city, when this was supposed to have been done, and he doesn't know why but that work doesn't get done. The number of times he gets a call from people saying why is this, why isn't that, and they find out they have a HOA and it's they are supposed to be paying for it and that nobody knows anything about it. He wants to make sure this is actually something that will happen. Councilor McCaul asked if there is a final sign off by the city before you sell these houses. Is there something to say okay you can sell the houses now. The City Solicitor spoke on this issue saying for a condominium in Massachusetts, there has to be a homeowners association that is in charge of all the common areas. So it's impossible to create a condominium without that because the unit owners only own their individual units. To create a condominium there is basically a division of ownership so basically, unit owners own their own individual units and they also own a portion of shares of the common areas. The common areas are governed by a board of trustees that's elected by the homeowners. Some of those other issues that the city had were other types of homeowner associations where it's a subdivision that takes care of a different kind of area. Councilor McCaul asked the city solicitor if there is a 0% chance that anyone is going to move in and the HOA is going to evaporate or not be there, that this can not happen. The City Solicitor said if it's a condominium, it has to have a HOA. Councilor Borges said there's also rules and regulations along with fines that are assessed to people who are not following the rules that the board can instill on them and enforce. Such as the no parking area, the board can take that up and determine fines if things aren't done the right way. Councilor Dooner asked for clarification. Is it going to be a condo association or a homeowners association. They are similar but different. Mr. Gallagher said he doesn't know. It's going to be a condo development so he guesses it would be a condominium association. The City Solicitor added that this application is for a Special Permit for a multi-family residential use. Unless the council imposes this as a condition, that it would be a condominium, that's not binding unless it was made a condition with the approval. **Motion was made to open public input. So voted.** James Smith, 18 Sumner Street, has quit a few concerns about this project. He said he heard them say the front half of this property off of High Street drains towards High Street and the rest is going south which is into his property. He built a new house here 20-years ago on Sumner Street and he knows when he was building, you dig 4-feet into the ground in that area, and it's solid clay. There's no drainage at all in this neighborhood. All the houses run with sub-pumps. Something like this is going to effect a lot of people. He wanted to know where they are going to push the snow. He doesn't see the room on this property for doing what they want to do. He said the city last year put a drainage pipe up Sumner Street to certain houses to connect sub-pumps to which it never took off, that nobody did it. Mr. Gallagher responded saying snow removal, if they look at their erosion control plan, they show snow storage areas on the plan. The central

courtyard, when it's snowing there won't be outdoor activity, so that will be a snow storage area. They also have one on each side of the entrance road. They have accounted for snow storage. Jason Romes, 246 High Street, also had a question about storm water. He said the Taunton River is right down the street. The Mill River is on the Northside of where you are building. They get all the water from Sabbatia. The Taunton River is title. He said they were talking about putting an emergency overflow when they can't handle their storm water and putting in storm water drains. He said they can't have that. He has lived there since 1998. They have 50-year floods, they have 100-year floods. Spring Street has been under water. In front of Ingell and High Street, that's been under water. There was a Victorian and he knew the people, there was always water stains somewhere on that property. Now they want to put all of this housing there and send that water somewhere else, it has to stay there. They can't send this out to the neighbors, it'll kill them. There sub-pumps are always running. His other issue is that they have a beautiful city that you can walk to and go to the restaurants, he wants to make sure that sidewalks are maintained. **Motion was made to close public input. So voted.** The City Solicitor wanted to make the councilors aware that for a Special Permit request such as this, there's a requirement that there is a notice that the Public Hearing is published for two successful weeks in the Taunton Daily Gazette and there is also a requirement that all the abutters within 300ft. of this property received notice in the mail of the date, time, location and the subject matter of this hearing. **Motion was made to approve the Special Permit on a roll call vote. So voted.** On discussion, Councilor Sanders wanted to follow-up on the snow and water issue. He referenced the letter from Michael Patneade, the City Engineer, which he suggested that the plan really isn't a good option. Stating from his letter that the snow storage area designated by driveway entrance creates two concerns. The first is that melting snow could flow across the sidewalk creating a hazardous situation. The second being the area is also designated as a planting area that could be destroyed by snowplows. In Mr. Patneade's letter it mentioned the snow storage area at the central courtyard may interfere with the central mailbox. Additionally, he asked if the infiltration system is designed to handle the snow load or the future snowmelt. Councilor Sanders disagreed with the petitioner and feels people do like to do recreational things outside when it's cold out. If there is a common area, people should be able to use it. He asked what plan B would be for the snow. Mr. Gallagher said the infiltration basin would be available for snow storage. They have space in front of the units that would be available for snow storage. That's plan B. Plan C is that they hall the snow away. Even open parking spots may be available. Mr. Meawad explained he agrees with the neighbors about the soil and when they do the construction the soil will be changed to more of a filtration soil. Councilor Coute made a few comments based on the neighbors' concerns. He wanted to let them know that in the building code, the developers require to keep all water on his property. Going into the city drainage system is not permitted. Discussion continued. **On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, six (6) councilors voted in favor, three (3) councilors voted in opposition. Councilor Postell, Quintal and Sanders voting in opposition. Motion carries. Motion was made to excuse the parties. So voted.**

Communications from the Mayor:

Mayor O'Connell said there are currently 207 (two-hundred and seven) active Covid cases in Taunton. The City of Taunton's Covid information line is #774-406-5277. You can call with any questions or information related to Covid, vaccinations or Covid-19 test kits. There is a Covid-19 vaccine clinic at Northwoods Medical Center on 2005 Bay

Street. They have all doses and boosters available for Pfizer and Moderna. You can go to <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/> to book an appointment. It is open from ages 5 and up. They are operating on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 8a.m. to 5:30p.m. If you need assistance with that, you can also call the Mayor's office. Digital vaccine records are available on your phone. You can go to <https://myvaxrecords.mass.gov/>. The city is planning a drive through with test kits for Taunton residents in the upcoming weeks. They will update you when the final details are finalized. For local businesses, their STEP-UP grant is now open. She thanked the office of Economic Development for creating that grant. The city actually received an Innovation Award from the Mass Municipal Association last week for that. The applications are available on the City of Taunton website. It will help the qualifying small businesses with the purchase of digital point of sales systems, website design and construction, social media setup coaching and logo design graphic. You can apply right on the City of Taunton website or call the Office of Economic Development with questions at #508-821-1030. The Bristol Plymouth High School project referendum is scheduled for March 5th, 2022. This is a Saturday from 9a.m. to 3p.m. There is a link on the City of Taunton website for more information. They thanked everyone who donated to the Taunton Animal Shelter. They had a great donation drive. If you are still interested in donating or volunteering, you can contact Cheryl Burns at the shelter at #508-822-1463.

Appointments:

NONE

Communications from City Officers:

Com. from the Assistant Executive Director of Retirement, regarding notification of the retirement of Russell Reed of the Taunton Fire Department, as of February 5, 2022 with 34-years of creditable service. **Motion was made to move approval and prepare the appropriate scroll. So voted.**

Com. from Chairman from the Taunton Planning Board notifying of a public meeting regarding a site plan review modification for location 36 Allison Avenue for the replacement of the existing loading dock area at the rear of the existing building with 15,500 sq. ft. addition of 4,900 sq. ft. of pavement to facilitate site maneuvering submitted by DW Clark/Burek LLC., to be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 8:45a.m. in the Taunton Planning Board office. Then also Thursday, February 3, 2022 at City Hall. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from City Planner submitting the ADA Transition Update. **Motion was made to refer to the ADA sub-committee. So voted.**

Com. from Councilor President, Duarte requesting the Appointment of Christine Colocousis-Clymens for the Treasurer-Collectors position effective February 14, 2022. This Appointment is to fill the balance of the current term which expires on June 4, 2022, at which time the Municipal Council will elect a Treasurer-Collector for a full term. **Motion was made to approve. So voted.** Councilor Duarte addressed some concerns that have been raised about this process. He explained this process was created by Councilor Couture when he was Council president and it's the process that he chose to continue under assuming the Council presidency in order to have a consistent process and be fair to all of the applicants. There are inherent challenges to having a multiple member

body such as the council as the appointing authority. It's something they discussed at length at the Charter process and it's one of those things they attempted to address with the proposed Charter but regardless of that, their goal was to create the best process with the limitation and difficulties that are imposed with having a nine member body as the appointing body for this position. There has been discussion on whether these interviews should be conducted in public, and he personally does not support interviewing these candidates in a public forum. He thinks that opens them up to more than the necessary scrutiny that they have to endure during a regular interview process. Other concerns were that they could do it as a full body in Executive Session, after looking into this at the City Solicitors office, the Open Meeting Law does not allow the full council to conduct interviews in Executive Session. It very specify applies to Preliminary Screening Committees to review resumes and do first round interviews in Executive Session and again not the full council. Any finalists, cannot be interviewed in Executive Session. With all of these limitations and challenges, they tried to create the best process. They had a robust panel that involved a set of councilors, both from the last council and this council, the Mayor in her office as the day to day authority that directs this position, the HR Director and when Mr. Dello Russo was brought on, they also included him in the process because he will also be involved with overseeing this position in additional to having extensive experience as Treasurer/Collector. Councilor Duarte stated himself and the rest of the panel are making this recommendation to the full council. Everyone did have the opportunity to review all of the resumes that were received as well as too meet with the candidate, which was essentially was everyone's opportunity to themselves to interview this person. He hopes that the council will adopt this recommendation. Councilor Coute explained when this opening came up, this process was driven when he was Councilor President, by the Council. He actually selected Councilor Carr and Councilor Croteau to do the first set of interviews but Councilor Croteau was sick for that week and couldn't attend, so it was only himself and Councilor Carr. They selected a candidate for the first round, unfortunately that candidate declined the position. He didn't participate in the second interview. When Councilor Duarte took over as president he selected Councilor Pottier. He did speak to everyone who interviewed Ms. Clymens and everyone said she knocked it out of the park and would hire her in a second. So he was real comfortable with the recommendation from his fellow councilors. He has since spoke with her and he is very comfortable with moving forward and supports this recommendation. He is also very comfortable with how it was done across the board. Councilor Quintal said he also had an opportunity to speak to Christine and he also spoke to the Director of Human Resources. As a new councilor he thought it was a very collaborative process that she had gone through. He does trust the panel of those who did interview her and he puts his total trust in them and supports their decision. Councilor Postell responded to the Councilor Presidents comments regarding the options they had and he respects the options and the process. He did speak to the candidate. In terms of some of the comments that were made, he asked the City Solicitor, is this a public employee position. The City Solicitor stated all of the Cities workers are public employees. Councilor Postell then stated this is a public employee position, this is an appointment position from the council and it's no different from when we interview Police Officers and Fire Fighters. They have to post those meetings that they are interviewing applicants and he will stand by the fact that he feels interviews should be continued to be done in front of the public eye if it's a public employee. Councilor Sanders stated he is not on board with the idea of that the Council President, past or present, has the sole authority to decide what the process is going to be and who's going

to be invited to participate in that process without the input of the full council. This is a council appointment. Not the Mayors appointment, not the council presidents appointment, it's not an HR Dept. appointment, this is one of the few appointments that are well in the jurisdiction of the City Council. Because of that, he firmly believes that the entire council should have had input of this process from the beginning. He addressed Councilor Duarte's point, all of those obstacles, challenges and criticisms are not necessarily ignored. The council could have made decisions about appointing a small group of people who would act on their behalf. That was the council as a whole, decision to make. Not for the Council President to make singlehandedly. He also had an opportunity to meet with the candidate, he was invited once the decision had been made that she was the candidate. He was invited for a meet and greet. Once this process was essentially concluded and a person was sent to us, and to note, the first introduction to them of this candidate was the first letter that came from the CFO and the Human Resource Director dated January 14th saying our hiring committee has handled this and the subsequent letter dated January 20th from the Council President provided a bit more background information, so the first introduction from this candidate to the council, came from HR and the CFO. Not from the Council president, not one of the sub-committees at all. He feels this process was flawed from the beginning. The other advantage that they may have had is the exploration of the minimal qualifications for this position. As he understands it, this was an obstacle and the current candidate does not have all of the minimum required qualifications that they put out in their posting. He feels if you don't meet the requirements you shouldn't be a possible candidate. He thinks the appropriate course of action, would be to review the posting and the job description with perhaps input from the HR Dept. and the other people involved in this process, to find what about those minimum qualification that made filling this position a challenge, then repost the position with new minimum qualifications. With this, they might come up with candidates with more qualifications for what they are looking for in terms of Municipal experience, degrees and all other items that at this point are not being fulfilled by this candidate. This is not to say that she wasn't an excellent interview. She definitely was very professional. He felt she definitely accomplished a lot in her life, she brings a lot of skills, but she does not meet the minimum qualifications that they established that would be necessary for this position. At this point, for those reasons, he will not be able to support this appointment. Mayor O'Connell asked the Human Resource Director and the CFO to address the qualifications of the candidate. The Director of Human Resources, Amy Kazlauskas starting by saying Ms. Clymens came to them after they offered the job to the other candidate and when they actually saw her resume, they said she has over 30-years' experience in banking, she has been an Executive Manager of a bank 2.2-billion dollars, she's a Tauntonian and she's a women in leadership. Those are all the things she looked at when her resume came across her desk. Then, regarding the minimum qualifications, they have talked at this table about being more diverse, more inclusive, more applicant friendly and getting more people to apply for their city positions that maybe aren't the silver spoon. As to the minimum qualifications, they have added verbiage such as and/or, preferred and things of that nature so they could get more applicants involved so they are trying to diversify their applicant pool. She did have a tremendous amount of financial experience. Ms. Kazlauskas thinks that she's going to hit it out of the park and that's what they want regardless of what happens today. We can talk about the process another day, we can work on the process together, she is absolutely open to a partnership with everybody. Right now they are talking about Christine Clymens and whether or not she can fulfill the position of the Treasurer/Collector and in

her mind not only does she think she can, that she will hit it out of the park. We have a CFO that is willing to help her that was a Treasurer/Collector for many years. We have Gil Enos with his expertise who has been here for over 25-years. We have the people in her office, in the Treasurer/Collectors office with multiple years of experience and expertise that can help shepherd this whole process along. Does she have some of the technical skills per say, maybe not, but is she a leader, absolutely. Does she have financial were withal, absolutely. Ms. Kazlauskas stated she endorses her. The Chief Financial Officer, Patrick Dello Russo stated he agrees and she is what we need for the team and supports her 100%. Councilor Pottier said he was one of the members on the interviewing committee and he appreciates that he was asked to be. He said she did interview extremely well. What he does fallback on is that challenges they had in the process. He does feel it is tough to get people to apply to Municipal jobs and government jobs for whatever reason. However, in that case, he feels they need to cast a wider net. After reviewing her application and meeting the seventeen preferred qualifications, he thinks she only hit seven. This is no criticism towards the applicant but this is the cities minimum qualifications. So maybe there would be some other people who would be equally talented who might not have applied. Mr. Dello Russo said being a certified Treasurer/Collector does not mean whatsoever that you can do the job. The qualifications she has on the banking side of it, really expresses the knowledge of how money has to move from City Hall to the bank accounts, to how it has to be reported and reconciled which is by far, the biggest roll, biggest qualification of that office, to insure that the cities assets are accounted for properly. Mr. Dello Russo explained as being a certified Treasurer/Collector, which is a six year process, he feels she has the skillset that their team needs. Councilor Pottier explained he likes to think as her as a professional that works in finance not a finance professional, with no criticism offered. Everything seems to be marketing and operations which is great and may be a benefit to the position but they didn't put that on the requirement. Ms. Kazlauskas added when they have qualifications, not everyone is going to have every single one of those qualifications of every job. You kind of have to weigh out what is important for this position. Actually, some of the candidates they interviewed, it was grossly apparent to the panel, that they may have municipal experience but they don't have leadership experience. They may been able to make a transaction at the tax collector window for 20-years doesn't make them a viable candidate for the Treasurer/Collectors position. So they really try to zone in on what they need to do to shepherd that office and really catapult it to the next level. With this being almost non-traditional, because they have the CFO, they do have that layer of assistance and strategy. She does think there will be a very deep partnership between the Treasurer/Collector and the CFO that they never had before. Which is another reason and layer of decision making. Councilor Pottier stated they never had a CFO before and he does have a comfort level that Mr. Dello Russo has past knowledge with the Treasurer/Collector on a town bases. Councilor Pottier hopes they can work collectively in a better process moving forward. Councilor Borges said she had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Clymens after they got the letter that she would be the person that they would be moving forward for them to vote on. She completely agrees with councilors one, three and five regarding the process. She thought Christine interviewed very well but it goes back to her qualifications. She feels they keep missing the point of what the other three councilors have mentioned that they didn't post a non-traditional posting and that's the problem she is having with this. They didn't open it up to other candidates. She interviewed very well. There's no doubt that she could be a good leader, but she is struggling with the fact that they could have other candidates if they had

posted this as a non-traditional position when they knew they went through those candidates, offered it to somebody but it was too far for them. Councilor Borges had a chance to review some of the other candidate's resumes and nothing wowed her to be honest but that's the part she really is struggling with. She was hoping they could put this off but doesn't mean Ms. Clymens might not come back as the number one person again, but they can advertise it the proper way and open it up to that non-traditional post without requiring all those certifications and other things that clearly she doesn't hold but has other qualities that are great qualities. It's bothering her that they didn't open it up to other people because she believes there would have been more applicants if they had taken that part out and offered the same opportunity they did to her to other candidates. She asked why the other candidates that had similar qualifications, not get brought in for an interview. Ms. Kazlauskas replied by saying the applicants were reviewed and vetted through the panel and they compared the people and interviewed the matching people of the panel. They interviewed whoever the four were that patched. That's how they got to the vetting process with the panel. With that being said, with the minimum qualifications, they added the verbiage with and/or and preferred, to open up for people to throw their hat in the ring. People could have thrown their hat in the ring just as well as she did and they would have reviewed it. Discussion continued. Councilor Borges asked the maker of this motion if they would amend their motion to put his back out with the proper job description to give others the opportunity that may not have had the minimal qualification for this position to have the opportunity to be interviewed. Councilor Dooner stated she is satisfied with the process. After being sick the prior week, she went on to explain that Councilor President Duarte and others have made numerous attempts to accommodate her interviewing with this person yesterday, and she thinks they are so focused on the process, that some of us want to have some involvement in it. Personally first hand, she deals with treasurers every day and would have liked to have been a part of the process as well but they did all have a chance to go ahead and interview her and ask questions. She trusts the Council President as well as the panel's unanimous recommendation of this person. She said again, we are so focused on the process, when we have a great candidate, which she first hand believes is going to do a familial job because she deals when then on a daily basis and she does have the right skill set. Councilor McCaul stated he is not going to rescind his vote on this because we have a great candidate. She interviewed well, she's a great candidate and she's from Taunton, what else could we ask for. We have a great candidate and he wants to press the motion on a roll call vote. Councilor Duarte addressed what is to him, new concerns, that not everyone was interviewed or everyone didn't have the opportunity to apply, he thinks everyone could probably agree that Ms. Clymens is a go getter. Essentially there is nothing that would prohibit anyone from applying for this position. As someone who was recently in the job market fresh out of college, he learned from what he learned from his advisors in college and so forth is that, regardless of whether or not you meet the qualifications, put your application/resume in because the worst thing that is going to happen is nothing. So there was nothing from prohibited anyone for applying of this position. The other candidates that did apply, most didn't meet the qualifications and they still applied because they fundamentally thought that when put in front of the panel and given the opportunity that they would be able to prove and still be able to do the job even if they didn't meet the minimum/preferred qualifications. He thinks that's what exactly Ms. Clymens did. Councilor Quintal said he understands a lot of the concerns however, we put our confidence in a panel to due diligence. They have two city employees who feel very strongly about this candidate Christine. Both of them will be working with her on a daily

basis. If they feel that strongly about this candidate, why shouldn't they put the confidence in these two fine employees of the city. **On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, five (5) councilors voted in favor, four (4) councilors voted in opposition. Councilor Borges, Pottier, Sanders and Postell voted in opposition. Motion carries.**

Councilor Duarte made a motion to move to appoint Patrick Dello Russo as the acting Treasurer/Collector. So voted.

Councilor Pottier made a motion to add Mr. Dello Russo's commentary to the record. So voted.

Communications from Citizens:

NONE

Petitions:

Claim

Claim submitted by Susan Nimerowski, 35 Short St., Taunton seeking reimbursement for damages to her automobile from hitting pieces of broken curbing on Industrial Park Road near the Holiday Inn. *(Already referred to the Law Department and DPW)*

Committee Reports:

Motion was made for Committee reports to be read by title and approved. So Voted. Recommendations adopted to reflect the votes as recorded in committee reports. So Voted.

Unfinished Business:

NONE

Orders, Ordinances and Resolutions:

NONE

New Business:

Councilor Borges requested a motion to meet with the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and Brewster Ambulance regarding Taunton Regional 911 in the Committee of the Council as a Whole. So moved.

Councilor Couté requested a motion to meet with the Law Dept./Bldg. Commissioner for an update as to the status of all cannabis retail licenses/projects to meet in the Committee of the Council as a Whole. So moved.

Councilor Couté requested a motion to meet in Executive Session with the Law Dept. for an update on delinquent tax parcels that no action has been taken to meet in the Committee of the Council as a Whole. So moved.

Councilor Couté requested a motion to refer speeding and speeding enforcement around the area of 110 Highland Street to the Safety Officer. So moved.

Councilor Pottier requested a motion to refer the issue of residents storing property on city parking lots to the Committee on Police and License and the Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills. So moved.

Councilor McCaul made a motion to refer Sherwood Avenue in East Taunton to the Department of Public Works. Both ends of the street and the middle of the street have huge potholes there and would like them filled in as soon as possible for safety reasons. **So voted.** *(Assistant City Clerk already called the DPW on this matter.)*

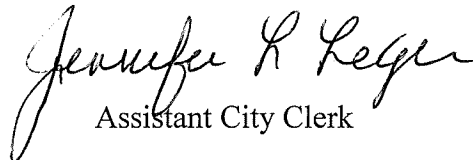
Councilor McCaul made a motion to invite the Selectmen from other Cities/Towns who are involved with the Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School project to an upcoming City Council meeting to discuss this project and have the Mayor's office reach out to the other communities to invite them to the meeting. Councilor Borges said all these other communities are having meetings and those meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend those meetings. **So voted. Councilor Sanders was in opposition.**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to request the Law Department come to the Committee on the Council as a Whole to discuss the process on releasing the minutes of Executive Sessions. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:


Assistant City Clerk

JLL/KLD

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
JANUARY 25, 2022

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR PHILLIP DUARTE, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS POTTIER AND MCCAUL. ALSO PRESENT WERE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PATRICK DELLO RUSSO AND BUDGET DIRECTOR GILL ENOS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:41 P.M.

1. MEET TO REVIEW THE WEEKLY VOUCHERS AND PAYROLLS FOR CITY DEPARTMENTS

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,283,449.33. SO VOTED.

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE INVOICE WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,637,496.31. SO VOTED.

MOTION: THE BUDGET DIRECTOR IS TO LOOK INTO WHETHER THE POLICE LOT PAVING WAS PART OF THE CITY HALL PROJECT. SO VOTED.

2. MEET TO REVIEW REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

A. BOARD OF HEALTH - \$310.16

The Chairman read a letter dated 12/14/2022 from the Board of Health requesting to pay a prior year bill for water/sewer.

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH TO PAY A PRIOR YEAR BILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$310.16 AND TRANSFER THE FUNDS FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01-510-5200-5420 – OFFICE SUPPLIES TO ACCOUNT NO. 01-510-5520-5230 – PRIOR YEAR WATER/SEWER AND TO MAKE THE LETTER PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.

B. DPW - \$26,323.52

The Chairman read a letter from the Department of Public Works Commissioner requesting to pay a prior year bill from BETA Group.

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PAY A PRIOR YEAR BILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,323.52 AND TRANSFER THE FUNDS FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01-421-5500-5540 – REPAIR/MAIN – STREET SUPPLIES TO ACCOUNT NO. 01-421-5520-5540 – PRIOR YEAR REPAIR/MAIN – STREET SUPPLIES. SO VOTED.

Mr. Enos informed the Committee that the police lot was paid for out of the general fund as part of the City Hall project.

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

3. MEET WITH THE CFO AND BUDGET DIRECTOR FOR A PRESENTATION REGARDING FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE BRISTOL PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

Mr. Dello Russo provided a chart that demonstrates the budgetary impact to the City based on general fund absorbent of the full assessment of the BP project. On the left hand side of the chart is a summary of the departments less education and fixed costs because those are things that the City has to pay no matter what. Next they have the projected budget allocations for fiscal year 2024, then they have a percentage that kind of breaks out throughout the entire chart the percentage of the budget for each division, General Government 11%, Public Safety is 58%, Public Works/Facilities is 21%, Health/Citizen Services is 4% and Culture and Recreation is 6%. That comes to an annual cost indicated from the BP project cost projections of \$822,000 which would be in the first year they would have to come up with funding for. The chart also shows the annual cost by department percentage that breaks out that \$822,000 by the percentages by department. The Chart also has an operating expense budget figure column which is 20% of the total projected budget. Typically on average it is an 80-20 split between total budget of personnel to expenses. The operating expense budget figure is 20% of the projected FY 2024 budget figure. It is an 80-20 split and that is a high level estimate as of right now. The next column labeled New Expense Budget is BP less Operating Expenses, so you take your BP annual cost by department, subtract that from your operating expense budget figure and you come to your new total, which is obviously reduced by the \$822,000 in aggregate. The first year of the material impact of the assessment will be a reduction of 5.34% to the actual operating budget, the actual cost, the cost of goods, the cost of services, the expenses, non-personnel, non-education and non-fixed costs. The same procedure was shown and demonstrated for the projected FY 2025 budget figure. That total is obviously much higher at \$4.225 Million. The same logic was applied, your operating expense budget figure based upon the original department percentage budget as shown in the second column and then you subtract the BP cost by your operating expense budget figure to arrive at the new operating budget expenses. The percent reduction there is much higher at 24%. So in total that is what the impact would be going on in perpetuity as in FY 25. You would see that basically for the next 25 years after that.

Mr. Enos said that if the Council does decide to explore a different way to fund this project the other option is a debt exclusion. The City Council would have to vote for a question on the ballot and the taxpayers would decide whether or not they want to spend additional money beyond their tax bill for the next 30 years in order to fund the project. It is a simple majority vote and it can be scheduled any time after the project is approved on March 5th. So it can be scheduled any time after that if the project gets

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

approved. Again, it is a simple majority and the assessment can change annually because it is all based on enrollment. Also if another community decides to drop out of the agreement that will have an impact on the amount as well going forward. These are really the two options on funding this project.

It was asked what the average assessment will be to the homeowner and Mr. Dello Russo said the total impact per \$100,000 on average is \$54.12 for each of the 30 years. So for \$200,000 it will be \$108. However the average assessment now is about \$380,000 so it would actually be about \$180, so the taxpayer would be paying an additional \$180 a year.

Mr. Dello Russo said there will be 2 issuance of bonds and notes. The first will be an aggregate of \$87.5 Million in years 22 and 23. It has been expressed to them that the interest rate will be at 3.71%. There will be a second round of financing to occur in years 26 and 27, each for \$16 Million at a rate of 3.75%. The interest amount on a level date project is approximately \$102 Million based upon those figures. The MSBA offset to the project is close to \$120 Million so the total principal after they get the reimbursements is going to be \$170 Million for the total project.

He also noted that the Superintendent of BP introduced them to the project team. The Unibank is the financial advisor for the project, as well as PMA consultants which is the Owners Project Manager and they got to go through some detailed questions with them. Also some facts he feels that are important and should expressed are a 6% cost escalation on goods and services for a total of \$11 Million, a 10% design contingency of \$18 Million, an Owners Project contingency aggregate of multiple line items for \$15.7 Million collectively for a total contingency of \$44.7 Million and that is out of the \$305 Million total budget. That \$44.7 Million is effectively built into the \$305 Million price tag that has been talked about for some time.

Mr. Enos said just for comparison issues, this is obviously a very large project. There are a few projects that they have had done in the City recently. The Taunton High School project was done about 15-20 years ago where they did the Taunton High School Parker Middle School renovation, and the Mulcahey School. The per pupil cost for Mulcahey School is about \$68,924, and for Taunton High School about 20 years ago was about \$35,011. This project, Bristol Plymouth project, is about \$208,333.

Councilor Duarte said to clarify, the chart that was provided is one option for paying for the project which is a reduction in operating expenses. Those operating expenses exclude salaries and contractual obligations, so it is just everything besides salaries and contractual obligations. The second option is to have a debt exclusion. It was said that is correct.

Councilor McCaul said that he heard mentioned that if a community drops out it will increase the cost to the taxpayers of Taunton. It was said that it will not increase just

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

for Taunton but also for all the other remaining communities as well. They would have to vote to pull out of the Bristol Plymouth educational system, not just vote against this project. The vote that is going to happen on March 5th is a simple majority, the total number of votes and it passes.

Councilor Pottier said he was under the assumption that the vote that is in March was for a debt exclusion to finance the project because everything was conveyed in so far as how much it was going to be per resident, what the impact on the taxes was going to be, so are they saying the vote that is in March is just for the project itself.

Mr. Enos said yes, it is just for approval or not.

Councilor Pottier then said if approval is granted, then they have to go and do a debt exclusion vote. He does not see why those votes couldn't be paired only because if the project passes and they do not pass a debt exclusion vote, then we are upside down and might as well close the doors because it would be such a big hit on operating.

Mr. Dello Russo said the point this evening that the Mayor really wanted them to illustrate was just the facts, and this is a factual representation of what they would have to do to avoid any cuts to education, fixed costs or personnel.

Councilor Pottier said he appreciates the numbers, but again, they would be boarding up downtown, City Hall, fire stations because they cannot make do on 25% less on non-payroll, non-fixed assets, non-education operating costs.

Councilor Borges said just for full disclosure she serves as the Taunton representative for Bristol Plymouth on the Bristol Plymouth School Committee and she serves in the best interests of this municipality on both boards, therefor she has no private interest in this and there is no conflict of interest as far as any discussions or any votes that she may take on this project moving forward. She further said this vocational school needs to be rebuilt. There have been a lot of numbers thrown out tonight and a lot of it, to her, is just a scare tactic. The \$302 Million is actually \$179 Million. \$123 Million is coming from the MSBA so the actual number is \$179 Million for the total cost of the project, and that is divided between all of the communities. Taunton takes 41% of that share. There was a reference to Mulcahey School and Taunton's own feasibility study for Mulcahey School which had additions dating back to the 1980's reached the same exact conclusion. That building was built in the early 1900's and those buildings were far better constructed and easier to renovate than buildings constructed in 1970 and 1980 which you know that is when Bristol Plymouth was built. It makes it nearly impossible to not rebuild this school. The point that people are missing is that if they do not build a new school, then they are responsible for reconstructing that school and that price tag is \$140 Million that will be shared between all of the communities. She feels that is the message that has to be driven. It is \$179 Million, not \$302 Million because they got free money from the MSBA. If they have to bring the school to compliance, to

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

repair it, it will cost \$140 Million. The communities will still have to pay for that. She would prefer to have a brand new school at the price tag of \$179 Million shared between all the communities, then to have that price tag of \$140 Million to go back and reconstruct a school that has many issues, even with asbestos so they will have to abate that, so there are many things that they would have to do to that school so that price tag could reach that \$179 Million just to rehab it. She just wants to make sure that the public knows this is not a \$302 Million project, and that they are getting funding from MSBA in the amount of \$123 Million, that is free money and she does not know why they would want to give that money up. She wants to make sure that people understand that.

Mr. Enos said it was stated that the project cost was \$305 Million and that they were getting about \$120 Million from MSBA which brought it down to about \$179 Million. Councilor Borges said it costs a lot more to build a vocational school than a regular school and when Mulcahey, Chambelain and Friedman Schools were built it was a lot cheaper then what it is now.

Mr. Enos said they are not for or against the project, they are just presenting the numbers. Mr. Enos also said if this project does go over the \$305 Million threshold, the communities are responsible for 100% of whatever the overage is, there is no reimbursement from MSBA. That happened on the Taunton High School project. They were approved for \$104 Million and it came in at \$112 Million, so the City was responsible for 100% of that \$8 Million.

Councilor Duarte said just to clarify the purpose of this presentation is to discuss the funding mechanisms that the City has the ability to use to fund this project if it is approved. The Council has already had the very lengthy presentation from the Superintendent of BP and the project team about the project itself, the total cost, how it is broken down, about the school itself. This is about how the City of Taunton itself, not the other communities, just us, is going to pay for this if it happens.

Councilor Sanders asked if there was any possibility of a blended response, so they take some from operating and put out a debt exclusion for a portion of that. Is that something that could be done.

Mr. Enos said he thinks you possibly could. You would still have to put it on the ballot for the voters to decide.

MOTION: TO EXCUSE THE PARTIES AND TO MAKE THE CHART PROVIDED PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.

Councilor McCaul said he believes they have to educate the community more on what it is going to cost the City. He would like to bring this back to the full Council for further discussion and invite the Superintendent to come back again. He made the following motion:

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

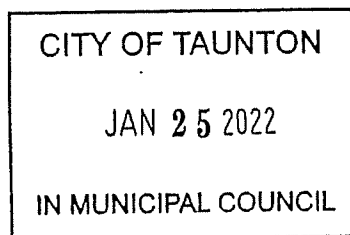
MOTION: TO HAVE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF BP AND HIS TEAM COME BACK AGAIN TO THE FULL COUNCIL.

Councilor Pottier seconded the motion and on discussion said not that he thinks this is a bad idea, but prior to the vote he would be interested not just from the City but also from the School Department, of what kind of information would be conveyed to the voters not just of Taunton but to the other communities as well leading up to the vote. Is BP intending on doing a mailing, is the Administration planning on doing a mailing, are there going to be any websites created. He knows the presentations are currently on the website, but what kind of outreach are they going to be doing for the voters, meaning the City and BP, to let the voters be more informed about this vote taking place in March. Again, the clock is ticking because the vote is only 6 weeks out. He is not against Councilor McCaul's motion to bring people back in again, however, of the 60,000 residents, somewhat less than that actually watch the meetings. He would just like to know what kind of information is going to be conveyed to the general voting public. **HE ASKED THAT THIS BE ADDED TO THE MOTION AND COUNCILOR MCCAUL AGREED.**

Councilor McCaul then said he is not sure they can do this but with the other communities involved in this project, does the Council have the right to have their leaders such as their selectmen or town people come in to talk because they are all in this together. It was requested that this be referred to the Law Department for their opinion.

THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON AND SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:14 P.M.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Colleen Ellis".

Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

 A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer Regan".

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
JANUARY 25, 2022

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2022 JAN 31 P 1:42

THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND ENROLLED BILLS

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR BARRY SANDERS, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS DOONER
AND MCCAUL

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:17 P.M.

**1. MEET WITH THE LAW DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS PROPOSED ORDINANCE
AMENDMENTS FOR TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

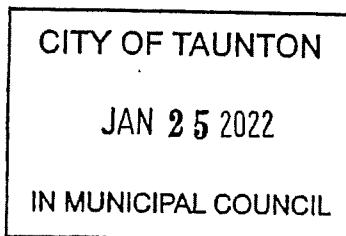
The Chairman said he received a correspondence from City Solicitor Matthew Costa asking that no action be taken on the proposed ordinance changes for terms of appointments at tonight's meeting of the Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills in light of the concerns presented by the COTMA union, so they will need to address/respond to those concerns before presenting this to the Council.

MOTION: TO MAKE THE CORRESPONDENCE PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.

The Chairman also noted that all Committee members received a communication from COTMA with their position statement on the proposed City Ordinance amendments.

MOTION: TO MAKE THE CORRESPONDENCE PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:18 P.M.



Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK



CITY OF TAUNTON

In Municipal Council 20.....

ORDER #5

FY 2022

JANUARY 25, 2022

Ordered, That

THE SUM OF THREE HUNDRED TEN DOLLARS AND

SIXTEEN CENTS (\$310.16) BE AND HEREBY IS TRANSFERRED FROM BOARD OF HEALTH

ACCOUNT NO. 01-510-5200-5420 – OFFICE SUPPLIES

TO: BOARD OF HEALTH ACCOUNT NO. 01-510-5520-5230 – PRIOR YEAR WATER/SEWER

..... *Clerk.*



CITY OF TAUNTON

In Municipal Council

ORDER #6

FY 2022

JANUARY 25, 2022

*20**Ordered, That*THE SUM OF TWENTY SIX THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED
TWENTY THREE DOLLARS AND FIFTY TWO CENTS (\$26,323.52) BE AND HEREBY ISTRANSFERRED FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNT NO. 01-421-5500-5540 –
REPAIR/MAIN – STREET SUPPLIESTO: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNT NO. 01-421-5520-5540 – PRIOR YEAR
REPAIR/MAIN – STREET SUPPLIES*Clerk.*